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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DELAWARE ASC

FARM NEWS

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STILL TIME FOR ACP PRACTICES

There is still time for Delaware farmers to carry out several needed conservation practices on which ACP cost-sharing is available and indications are that all counties can still give substantial financial help on late filed requests for cost-sharing.

Winter cover crops can give a lot of protection from both wind and water, provide needed pasture, and help get scarce organic matter back into a lot of our over-worked soils. There is still time to seed hairy vetch for which cost-sharing for the acreage seeded above normal is available under Practice 13. Barley, oats, or a mixture of vetch and rye can be seeded under Practice 18 until the middle of October and wheat or rye alone can be seeded under the same Practice 18 until November 20. Practice 18 is applicable only to land which will be left out of crop production next year and devoted to green manure and cover crops. The green manure or cover crops can be pastured and many farmers will need this additional forage. Under this practice costs are shared for the use of needed liming material as well as fertilizer.

CAUTION ----- Even though county committees may not be able to give formal approval of cost-sharing until after the practice has been performed, application for cost-sharing must be made by the farmer before the practice is started.

If the weather permits, lime can be applied under Practice 2 right up until the end of December. A soil test is required as a condition of approval for the use of lime and soil samples should be brought to the county office at the same time application is made for cost-sharing.

Drainage ditches also may be constructed late in the year if the weather permits. Farmers desiring assistance in constructing ditches should first contact the SCS technician to be sure that technical service can be obtained and then request approval of the county ASC committee.

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It is better to lose health like a spendthrift than to waste it like a miser.

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"TOTAL ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS" ELIMINATED FOR 1955

In a news release dated September 15, Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra T. Benson, announced three-fold action to help offset the affects of a still spreading drought. Briefly summarized these actions are:

1. Elimination of the "total acreage allotment" provision for 1955
2. An increase in the rate of assistance available to eligible farmers and ranchers in designated drought counties, and
3. A recommendation that Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina be designated as Drought Disaster Areas in addition to the eight states already so designated by the President.

Since Delaware is not in the designated drought disaster area, only the first item - Provision for 1955 - directly affects our farmers. As long as farmers comply with their individual crop allotments (wheat and probably corn in Delaware) they will, in general, be free to plant the rest of their land as they wish without loss of price support eligibility.

It must be emphasized that farmers must comply with all individual crop allotments in order to be eligible for price support loans or purchase agreements or to be eligible for Agricultural Conservation Program assistance. Smaller wheat plantings -- not more than 15 acres -- are excepted from this cross-compliance provision. Producers who exceed their wheat allotment but do not plant more than 15 acres will not be eligible for wheat price support, but they will not lose their eligibility for support on other crops for which they have observed allotments. However, compliance with all crop allotments (including smaller wheat allotments) is a condition of eligibility for Agricultural Conservation Program assistance.

A special provision also applies with respect to commercial vegetables. To be eligible for price support on any commodity, the 1955 harvested acreage of vegetables, potatoes, and sweet potatoes (for fresh market or processing) and dry edible beans must not exceed the average acreage of these crops planted for harvest on the farm in 1952 and 1953.

The practical effect of this change in the program for 1955 is that it will permit many Delaware farmers to plant feed grains for harvest next year and thus replace some of the feed supplies lost as a result of the summer drought. Farmers will in many instances be able to "round out" the remaining acreage in fields by planting small areas diverted from wheat in barley, rye, or oats to be harvested for needed forage or grain. This will enable them to make customary seedings of grass and clover without disturbing long time established rotation systems.

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Farmer: "Sure a nice cow ain't she?"

City Cousin: "Yeah. But, gosh, doesn't it cost a lot to keep her in chewin' gum?"

1955 STATE ACP HANDBOOK APPROVED

The Delaware 1955 ACP State Handbook has been approved by the ACP Service in Washington. The State program continues, without substantial change in specifications, most of the conservation practices contained in the 1954 program. Local ASC committees together with representatives of other county Agricultural agencies are now engaged in developing within the general framework of the State program county programs.

The ACP for 1955 puts particular emphasis on the use and protection of acres diverted from crop production. The maximum Federal cost-shares have been computed on the basis of 50 percent of the total cost of performing the practice, including for the first time in many years the estimated cost of land preparation by the farmer.

County allocations of funds for the payment of cost-shares to farmers were made by the State committee at its meeting on September 16. The 1955 allocations to all counties are increased by more than 30 percent over 1954 allocations.

Although farmers must comply with wheat and corn allotments for 1955 to be eligible for ACP assistance, it is believed that many farmers will find it advantageous to use ACP cost-sharing in meeting some of the more serious conservation problems on their farm.

1955 CROP WHEAT SUPPORTS ANNOUNCED

The Department announced September 15 that the national average support level for the 1955 wheat crop will be not less than \$2.06 per bushel, which is $82\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the current parity price for wheat.

The support rate will be increased if the wheat parity price as of July 1, 1955, is higher than the parity price of \$2.50 per bushel used to determine the minimum rate of \$2.06. The national average support rate for 1954 crop wheat is \$2.24 per bushel.

FINAL DATE FOR CORN LOANS

The State committee has established January 31, 1955, as the final date on which corn loans will be available. Applications for corn loans must be made by the producer sufficiently before this date to permit samples to be drawn, tests made, and all documents prepared ready for execution not later than the final date.

May 31, 1954, has been established as the maturity date for all 1954 crop corn loans.

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Knowledge and timber shouldn't be much used until they are seasoned.

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Milk -- The first settlers in the New World had no dairy problems--they brought no cows with them. But they did have nutrition problems. Suitable food was scarce for all, and many of the children died from lack of milk. The colonies had to send back for cows. Drink more milk!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON 1955 PROGRAMS

All County committees have announced a meeting this week of county and community committees. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss 1955 ASC Programs. Now that farmers are beginning to plant fall grain crops, there is a great deal of interest in how such plantings will affect the farmers compliance with allotment and ACP Programs next year.

The meetings are set up for the following dates:

Kent County	Friday, September 24
New Castle County	Thursday, September 23
Sussex County	Wednesday, September 22

All committeemen are urged to attend these meetings.

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FOR THE DELAWARE ASC STATE COMMITTEE

By: _____

Paul W. Mitchell
Paul W. Mitchell, Chairman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation
Courtney and Academy Streets
Newark, Delaware